



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,151	03/31/2004	Kazuyoshi Honda	10873.1412US01	8205
53148 7590 01/05/2011 HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON P.C. P.O. BOX 2902 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0902				
EXAMINER				
MARTIN, ANGELA J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1727				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/05/2011		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/815,151	HONDA ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	ANGELA J. MARTIN	1795

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 29 December 2010 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) ☐ entered.
- b) ☒ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

- d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

The Amendment filed on December 10, 2010, is made to cancel claim 3. The Amendment filed on January 14, 2010, amended claim 1 to include the feature of claim 3, however, claim 3 was not canceled at that time. The Amendment filed on December 29, 2010, is made to amend the dependency of claim 4 from now canceled claim 3, to independent claim 1. No issues requiring any substantive consideration have been raised.

/Dah-Wei D. Yuan/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1727